

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CORESTA PESTICIDE SUB-GROUP  
WINSTON-SALEM 1982 - FLORENCE 1983 - H. REIF

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The Group has reduced its activities because of the overall declining interest in pesticide residues. It was claimed that some of the participating laboratories could not obtain permission to invest money and manpower in this type of work. In the same way, the EEC pesticide group has now become a standing body and will only become active to undertake special problems. The ISO sub-group WG 4 of ISO/TC 126 has also been disbanded.

With this background in mind the group decided to meet only once a year and to arrange a one-day technical rendezvous, for participants in joint experiments, to discuss collaborative results. These short informal meetings will take place at a central point in Europe, either Hamburg or Frankfurt.

After a long and successful period, Dr. Coa Ayers of BAT, Southampton, has resigned as secretary and handed over to Mr. F. Moser from FTR, Neuchatel. The sub-group owes much, both to him and his enterprise, for being prepared to support a somewhat neglected area of research.

The schedule of the sub-group is now - according to priority

- ridomil
- synthetic pyrethroid, and
- aldicarb

A joint experiment was set up on Ridomil and discussed at an intermediary meeting in December 1982 in Frankfurt. Though the main features of the analytical method are clear, there are several differences in the extraction, deprotonization and partition step. The results were in the case of the Forchheim variation ranging from 2,0 - 4,5 ppm (confidence level 95%), centering around 3,1 ppm. This means that the group would be in the position to provide a screening method which would help as a YES/NO decision. However, the results have too low an accuracy for the procedure to be adopted as an official method. Since such a method would be taken up by ISO, it is very doubtful if the acceptance of an official method is reasonable. The group is continuing to improve the accuracy by modified joint experiments.

In the case of synthetic pyrethroids, the results were more promising, as we could start from a very well adapted method from Shell Laboratories in Sittingbourne. However, the group felt this method - though working well as a research method - too time consuming to use routinely on a large number of samples. Subsequently, we adopted the information given by Mr. Toet, Tobacco Research Board, Zimbabwe, to try out the simple extraction with Florisil/Hexane in a Soxhlet apparatus as described by Reif/Moser in Beitrage zur Tabakforschung. Mr. Toet is using this method to analyse large numbers of samples.

Looking to the future, the collaboration of the group taking part in joint experiments, will meet in December in Frankfurt, if it is necessary. The next general meeting will be in the Spring of 1984.

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